

REMARKS

Applicant hereby affirms the election of Group I, claims 1-27.

This is in response to the Office Action dated September 10, 2003. At page 3 of the action, the Examiner objected to the drawings, stating that Figures 1 - 14 should be labeled "prior art". Claims 6 and 15 were rejected under 35 USC § 112 because of the use of claim terms "a few inches".

Claims 1, 5 - 9, 19 - 27 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as anticipated by Davis '540. Claims 2 - 4, 10 - 18 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as unpatentable over Davis '540 in view of Burris.

Independent claims 1, 10, 19 have been amended. As amended, Kenneth Davis is a co-inventor of at least some of the claimed subject matter. The specification has been amended to name Kenneth Davis as a co-inventor. The drawing figures 1 - 14 are not prior art because the present application is a continuation-in-part in a chain of applications which dates back to and claims priority of the application that issued as Davis '540.

The present invention has particular utility in the sanitization of water dispensers such as the common inverted bottle water cooler used nation wide in offices, businesses and homes. These dispensers typically have very shallow reservoirs of just a few inches of depth. The specification notes that a few inches can be between 2 and 10 inches. Disinfection is difficult, because consumers draw water triggering a refilling of the reservoir with a supply source. Applicant's method and apparatus treat the reservoir. The claims have been amended to point out that ozone is transmitted to a porous diffuser wherein pore size defines bubble size. This enables very small bubbles to be generated for sanitizing a very shallow reservoir of just a few inches. It is believed that such language is definite, as the specification states that the reservoir can be between about 2 and 10 inches deep.

Burris does not disclose the porous diffuser as claimed nor discuss any reason for using such a porous diffuser during disinfection of a water dispenser reservoir that will be immediately sourced by a consumer that wants to drink water. Burris does not discuss the problem of sanitizing a reservoir that is very shallow such as between about 2 and 10 inches deep. Instead, Burris relies upon a complicated control system (e.g. see elements d and e of claim 1 of Burris and related specification language).

Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner feel that a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, he is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Applicant respectfully petitions the Commissioner for any extension of time necessary to render this paper timely.

Enclosed is our Check No. 8772 in the amount of \$210. However, if this amount is insufficient, please charge any additional fees due or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0694.

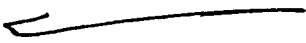
Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Response, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 10th day of February, 2004.



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